have gone abroad and what are the achievements of each of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) Some Indian Scientists, engineers, medical personnel and technologists do migrate to other countries for higher studies/advanced research and some of them tend to stay back. But, it has not been possible to determine quantitative figures;

(d) Several steps have been taken from time to time by the Government to minimise the outflow as also to attract scientists and technologists settled abroad to return to India, some of these

— increase in the outlay for Science and Technology sector in sucessive Five Year Plans.

— Creation of new scientific Departments/Organisations.

— Setting up of more centres of excellence/advanced studies in Universities and academic institutions.

— Creation of core groups of professionals with necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.

— S&T based training for entrepreneurial development.

— Delegation of enhanced administrative and financial powers to S&T institutions to improve working conditions of scientists.

— Manpower development training/retraining programmes through associateships|fellowships|courses.

— Provisions for temporary placement of Scientists and Technocrafts under the scheme of Scientists Pool.

— Creation of supernumerary Posts.

— Invitation to distinguished men and women of Indian rogin settled abroad for short term technical assignments to assist in frontier and emerging areas of S&T.

— Creation of a Special Cell in the Ministry of Industry for assisting non-resident Indians for setting up of industrial units in this country. Some states have also set up special cells and Department for this.

— Provision of facilities for import of equipment for professionals returning from abroad.

Earthquake tremors

1480. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during last one year, various parts of the country have been experiencing tremors; if so, the State-wise location thereof;

(b) whether Government have issued any instructions to the local administrative offices on precautions to be taken in case of major earthquake; and

(c) whether Government have pinpointed responsibilities for implementing Government Directives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes Sir. During the last one year sporadic and intermittent earthquake activity has been occurring in various parts of the country. During 1994 slight earthquakes occurred in Koyna-Warna area, Thane and Latur-

Osmanabad districts in Maharashtra, Jabalpur, Ratlam, Khandwa and Indore area in Madhya Pradesh, Talcher in Orissa, Birbhum and Hooghly districts in West Bengal, Sikkim-Bhutan border, Daltonganj in Bihar, Assam and Delhi, Moderate earthquakes occurred in Manipur Myanmar border.

(b) and (c) The Bureau of Indian Standards has published criteria or earthquake resistant design of structures spelling out different earthquake resistant design parameters to be adopted in different parts of the country. State Goverments are responsible for post earthquake relief operation often with the assistance of Central Government. The Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India has circulated to all State Governments a National Contingency Action Plan to be adopted by States for mitigation of disastrous events like earthquakes. The State Governments are to prepare and update their own Relief Manual son the basis if this contingency plan which also identifies the focal points in the Government for the maagement of atural dsasters.

Popularisation of Sciece among the students

1481. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the policy relating to Science and Technology envisages inter-alia popularisation of Science among the students at their early age;

(b) whether Government have evolved anv specific action plan to realise the importance of inculcating a scientific temper among school students.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any specific action has been taken particularly for incorporation of such action plan in the academic curriculum in oschools, if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACEC IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Scientific Policy Resolution of Government of India (March 4, 1958) clearly brings out the need and importance of the scientific approach, method and use of scientific knowledge for the progress and welfare of the society. This is also one of the core curriculum area of the National Policy on Education 1986 The Programme of Action 1992 has spelt out salient features of National Curriculum Framework in this conext on page 89, where it is stated "Objectives of science education....to develop in the child well defined abilities and [illegible] such as spirit of enquiring creativi[illegible]tivity, courage to question and aesthetic sensibility".

To inculcate a scientific temper among the people and communicate/popularise science and technology (S & T), Government of India has established a nodal agency, viz. National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) in the early eighties. The National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) has plans of setting up National, Regional, State and district level science centres all over the country and through them of inculcating scientific temper among students of all ages.

(d) The NCERT has produced both print and non-print instructional materials which strive to inculcate scientific temper, reasoning and creativity among the elementary school children. The video programmes produced by the CIET/SIETs are telecast daily from Monday to Friday covering twelve states and the UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Activities appropriate for inculcation of scientific temper have been incorporated in the science textbooks developed by the NCERT. Children's Science Exhibitions, which are held each year at the State and National levels have contributed in children's involvement with innovative project activities in science and technology.